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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 2 April 1953

SUBJECT

Sea Police Vessels in the Peenewerft in
Wolgast

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25X1X

Seven Sea Police KS boats, including 114 and 135, were in the Peenewerft (Peene Shipyard) in Wolgast for an exchange of their propulsion engines which, in some cases, had a work life of only 25 hours.¹ Three Sea Police R boats (motor minesweepers) also were under repair. KS boats 19 through 22, which had been transferred from Berlin, were drained in the Peenewerft because of frost danger. KS boats 23 to 25 were transferred to Wolgast from Berlin on 9 February 1953.

Vessel WISMAR which, according to Lieutenant (Eng) Skambracks (fnu), will be used by the Sea Police as a seagoing tug, was nearing completion. She was powered by two 540-hp Diesel engines from Buckau-Wolf in Magdeburg and had an electric plant of five 100-hp engines each coupled to a 75-kw generator set.² She had gun mount rings and gratings but no armament.

Shipyard workers said that ERNST THAELMANN, formerly DORSCH, left the Peenewerft in December 1952 and was lying in Sassnitz after that date.³

25X1A

Comment. According to another report, engine damage was caused by the oil filters which proved too narrow. See [redacted]

25X1A

25X1A

Comment. As electric plant of the type reported on the WISMAR is unusual in a seagoing tug, WISMAR will possibly be used as a salvage vessel or a floating battery-supply vessel for submarines. Sea Police circles expected that submarines would come from the U.S.S.R. or would be built by Soviet Zone shipyards. An engine fitter who had been detailed to the Peenewerft from the Schiffselektrik VEM in Rostock, stated, for example, that plans for the construction of submarines had been prepared by the Schlaak design office and that the submarines would be built by the Peenewerft. Another rumor indicated that, in 1953, some Soviet submarines which were in Libau would be handed over to the Soviet Zone of Germany as soon as their crews would have completed training at the Submarine School in Sassnitz.

25X1A

Comment. On 12 December 1952, a ship, probably the Ernst THAELMANN formerly DORSCH, was seen in Sassnitz. See [redacted]

25X1A 25X1A